

Harwich thanks Haven Ports YC

In June, the Harwich ALB Albert Brown visited Levington Marina in support of the Haven Ports Yacht Club. At the invitation of the commodore, the lifeboat was moored up by the lightship clubhouse for viewing. HPYC has supported us well over the years and last year raised over £7,000 for the Harwich Lifeboats, providing essential equipment for the station and personal clothing for crewmen. Visitors were able to tour the boat and meet members of the crew



Liner's maiden call brings visitors



When the newly-built Italian cruise liner Costa Luminosa visited Harwich during its maiden cruise to northern Europe, some 2,000 passengers spent the day in the region. Many took the shuttle buses into Old Harwich and Dovercourt, where local

cafe owners in particular saw their daily takings more than double. Several cruisers also visited the lifeboat station. New plans to emphasise Harwich's maritime and industrial heritage could give visitors more to see and do during future calls.

Harwich boats visit Walton



As part of a regular Sunday morning training exercise the Harwich station's two lifeboats paid a brief visit to their closest neighbours Walton. Clacton's inshore boat also participated and the photo shows all the boats underway in a pacing manoeuvre. A coxswain from the South African lifeboat service who was visiting Walton said he was very impressed with the capabilities of the English lifeboats.

PHOTO: NICHOLAS LEACH

Tendring riders for the cause



Members of the Harwich lifeboat crew and some of their families took part in the revived Tour of Tendring cycle ride to raise money for their favourite charity – the RNLI.

Pictured above at the start are (l-r) Simon Benham, Steven Amner, Jason Davis, Elliott Kemp, John Mealing, Darren Priestnall, Harry Davis and Glen Davis.

Inshore lifeboat grounded



The launching crane for the Harwich ILB was funded by the East Anglian newspaper 'Heroes of the Sea' appeal. In the eight years it has been installed it has been well used in all weathers and was in need of maintenance as the bearings had become worn. The RNLI provided a relief boat that was able to lay afloat, allowing the local firm of AJ Woods Engineering to dismantle the crane and renew the moving parts. The crane was back in action in good time for the busy summer season.

Locals show loyal support



Harwich RNLI benefits greatly from the support of local residents of Harwich and Dovercourt and from local

businesses which readily release their workers to crew the lifeboats when their pagers call them to action. The residents of Emily May Court (above) held a coffee morning which raised more than £500, including some personal donations.



The Mayoress Appeal was also very successful and a substantial donation was made to the station (left).

Number 5

Friends of Harwich Lifeboat Newsletter



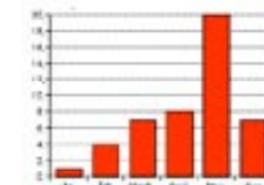
Lifeboats

Our busiest week for 10 years

Some Recent services

During May, the Harwich Lifeboat had its busiest week in 10 years when crews responded to no fewer than 11 call outs in seven days.

Rod Shaw, Operations Manager at Harwich RNLI, evaluated all the services to identify any trends which could then be fed into the RNLI's Sea Safety campaign. The graph shows that services peaked in May, raising particular concerns.



Of the seven services in March, four were in strong winds over Force 5. Clearly, the weather was a contributing factor. In April, half of the services were over the Easter weekend, which is a national pattern affecting other stations.

During those 11 call outs in a week in May we assisted 62 persons, with one boat having eight people on board, while another incident involving two boats had a total of 14 persons on board.

Harwich lifeboat in TV series

Harwich lifeboat crew played a major part in the Virgin 1 TV series Trawlers, Rigs and Rescue which told the stories of the brave and dedicated people who go to work in the most difficult conditions. One highlight was an exercise with the RAF rescue helicopter R125 (shown passing Holbrook on the River Stour). See inside for more pictures of this event.

Welcome to Sea Festival

Harwich's annual Sea Festival takes place on Sunday, July 26. Amongst the attractions, episodes of the Trawlers, Rigs and Rescue series will be shown upstairs at the lifeboat station. On the water there will be an Air Sea Rescue exercise with lifeboats and helicopter, along with a Felixstowe tug demonstration, visits by a Thames barge and a steam tug and a return display by the Newfoundland rescue dogs. Music acts will entertain the public on the Pier. The event is organised by the Rotary Club and also benefits the RNLI.

Fundraisers! The RNLI is always looking for novel ways of raising cash to fund Lifeboat operations. If you have any ideas for local event sponsorships or cash collections please contact Harwich Lifeboat Station on 01255 502258. For more information view the website www.harwich.org.uk

Unlucky dip for youngsters in the Deben



During the busy month of May, the Harwich RNLI's Inshore Lifeboat 'Sure and Steadfast' was launched to the River Deben responding to a report of an inflatable dinghy drifting out to sea in strong winds with three persons onboard. On arrival the lifeboat crew found three teenagers who were transferred onto the lifeboat and landed back ashore to awaiting Coastguards and anxious parents.

30/05/2009, 0030-0140
The ALB was launched at the request of Harwich VTS who were monitoring a yacht Onia, acting erratically close to the Cork Sands. On arrival the lifeboat decided that the vessel needed to be navigated safely into harbour.

30/05/2009, 0215-0300
Both Harwich Lifeboats were launched to a report from the Maersk Importer of a possible man overboard between the South Shipwash, 12 miles SE, and her present position. Both lifeboats established a search area until the ship reported that the man had since been found onboard.